

OCSC sponsors annual art auction

The Officers Civilian Spouses Club is sponsoring its 4th annual art auction April 16 at the Conference Center.

A preview of items begins that night at 6:30 p.m., and the auction begins at 7:30 p.m. Hors d'oeuvres will be served.

"Since the auction is the primary fund raiser for our organization, big plans are in the works for another superb fund-raising year," said Mrs. Tami Corby, OCSC ways and means chairwoman.

OCSC uses the money raised for events throughout the year.

"Not only do we sponsor scholarships for Shaw teenagers, but we also have scholarships for spouses who want to further their education," said Mrs. Ginger Jacoby, OCSC president.

In addition to scholarships, the club funds are given to base and local charities and help with community service projects.

As in years past, OCSC has secured "State of the Art," an art auction company, to provide the art and expertise for the event.

Similar to 2003's auction, "State of the Art" will provide attendees with a broad selection by

renowned artists including Marc Chagall, Salvador Dali, Thomas Kinkade, Pablo Picasso and Norman Rockwell.

Works will range from lithographs, etchings and engravings to watercolors and original oils. In addition, requests are being taken for particular artists and types of art such as Civil War, F-15s, and F-16s.

Prices in art start from \$50 to \$500, and for serious collectors there will be a "Collector's Corner" featuring museum-quality treasures.

To aid potential buyers, the auctioneer will spend the first part of the show educating the audience on the history of the pieces.

Tickets for this event are \$5 in advance and \$7 at the door.

"The earlier the reservation, the better chances to win free art. So, be on the lookout for your invitation," said Mrs. Corby.

Reserved seating is encouraged as seating is limited. For more information, contact Mrs. Tami Corby at tcorby@sumter-sc.com or call **436-2667**, or Mrs. Linda Watson at **481-7154**.
(Information courtesy of OCSC. Staff Sgt. Lee Watts contributed to this article)

Hometown news release program

The Hometown News Release Program gives the Air Force positive publicity across the United States and supports recruiting efforts. Any military person whose "news event" falls into one of the following categories is eligible to complete a Department of Defense Form 2266:

- Newly arrived to unit (PCS only)
- Promotion to airman first class or higher
- Awards and decorations for individual achievement (Air Force Achievement Medal and higher) plus the Humanitarian Service Medal
- Re-enlistments and retirements
- Individual achievement (earning a college degree or being chosen for a quarterly award for example.)
- Suggestion awards of \$50 or more
- Participation in a major exercise or deployment

Call the 20th Fighter Wing Public Affairs office at **895-2019**, or talk to your unit's public affairs representative for details.



Spirit Spotlight



Airman 1st Class Dana Bickel



Organization: 20th Component Maintenance Squadron

Duty title: Electronic warfare systems apprentice

Job duties: Test and maintain electronic warfare pods

Hometown: Fairfax, Va.

Time in service: One and a half years

Off-duty interests: Golf, exercising and reading

Words I live by: "Whoever loves instruction loves wisdom, but he who hates correction is stupid." -- *Proverbs 12:1*

Staff Sgt. Miranda Riggins



Organization: 20th Services Squadron

Duty title: NCO in charge of commander's support staff

Job duties: Perform all orderly room functions, serve as unit fitness program manager

Hometown: San Diego

Time in service: Nine years

Family: Husband, Staff Sgt. Richard Riggins III, 20th Equipment Maintenance Squadron; children, Rishard and Ranielle

Off-duty interests: Spending time with family, reading and cooking

Words I live by: "You can't look forward and backward at the same time."

April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

By Airman 1st Class Anna Fitzhorn
20th Operations Support Squadron

More than 3,000,000 children in the U.S are reported as abused or neglected each year, and of these, 45,000 are from South Carolina. What can service members and their families do to prevent child abuse?

According to the International Society for Child Abuse and Neglect, there are four types of abuse: physical, sexual, emotional, and neglect. According to Ms. Patti Busser, Family Advocacy outreach manager, neglect is the most common type of abuse found in the Air Force.

Any parent in need of assistance with their children has many classes and programs available to them on base, said Ms. Busser.

“We offer the ‘New Parent Support Program,’ a confidential way to equip new parents with the skills they need to provide a stable

environment for their children,” she said.

Ms. Busser said child abuse can be anything in relation to harming a child. It can be intentional or unintentional, but any time a child has been more than inconsequentially injured, it is considered abuse.

Ms. Busser recommends parents to take a “hands off” approach when they become angry with a child. She suggests instead of spanking, have a time out or call a neighbor to watch your child and go for a walk.

“If a parent is using spanking as a form of discipline, it is important they consider the age of the child, their ability to control themselves when angry, and their own strength. It is everyone’s personal choice whether to spank or not until it injures the child. As a citizen of the community, it is important to watch

children for signs of abuse,” said Ms. Busser.

Members should watch for physical signs of abuse such as inappropriate bruises on an infant, or behavioral signs, such as having an unusually large amount of personal space, she said.

“As an Air Force affiliate, members are mandated to report child abuse. If a member witnesses abuse, they should report it to **911**, Family Advocacy at **895-6201**, or the Department of Social Services,” said Ms. Busser.

“Members don’t have to have proof to report child abuse, we just need good faith that some type of abuse is going on,” said Ms. Busser.

For a list of classes at the Family Advocacy Center, call **895-6201** or the Family Support Center at **895-1253**.



Statistics

- ▶ **Nationwide, 2,000 children die annually from child abuse and neglect**
- ▶ **Abused children are 15 times more likely to repeat a grade**
- ▶ **85% of long-term prisoners were abused as children**
- ▶ **75% of high school dropouts have a history of abuse**
- ▶ **One in four girls and one in six boys will be sexually abused before the age of 18**
- ▶ **45% of abused children become alcoholics**

(courtesy of www.turn-point.org)